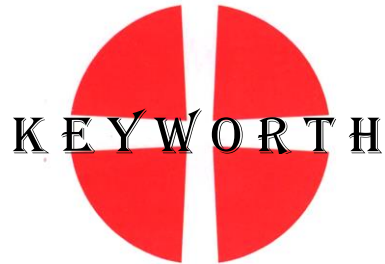


The Methodist Church



Safeguarding

Keyworth Methodist Church recognises it has a moral and legal responsibility to provide a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Equally, all church users are expected to understand that they have a responsibility to such people and to ensure that this environment is maintained.

“People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:13-16

Keyworth Methodist Church's Safeguarding Policy

As the people of the Keyworth Methodist Church we are concerned for every individual and that all may grow in God's love for them in Jesus Christ.

We seek to safeguard all members of the church community, of all ages. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect, particularly of children, young people and vulnerable adults (vulnerable individuals).

The Church's Responsibility

As witnesses to Christ's love, we want to ensure that our work with vulnerable individuals is of the highest standard.

At Keyworth Methodist Church we seek to work within Home Office guidelines. K.M.C. therefore, will:

- ❖ shoulder its responsibilities in caring for individuals who may be vulnerable and those who care for them.
- ❖ be committed to good practice in work with individuals who may be vulnerable.
- ❖ recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with individuals who may be vulnerable.
- ❖ be prepared to work in different ways, where necessary, seeing this as an opportunity for service and mission.

In the light of these guidelines Keyworth Methodist Church has prepared a policy for those working with individuals who may be vulnerable. One copy is posted on the main Church notice board in the Church Hall.

If you would like a copy please request it.

This leaflet outlines the responsibilities placed on all church users in relation to their working with and reacting to individuals who may be vulnerable

Why Safeguarding?

The need to protect children and young people has always been present. However, it was highlighted especially as a result of two major events in 2000 and 2002 respectively.

The two incidents relate to a little girl called Victoria Climbié and two teenage girls called Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman.

It was as a result in particular of these two events that the safeguarding of children and young people was given such prominence.

Following these events there was a public inquiry which produced major changes in child protection policies in the United Kingdom.

These changes included:

- ❖ the formation of the 'Every Child Matters' initiative,
- ❖ the introduction of the Children Act 2004,
- ❖ the creation of the Contact Point project, a planned government database that will hold information on all children in England and Wales,
- ❖ the creation of the Office of the Children's Commissioner chaired by the Children's Commissioner.

Who is at risk?

Those at risk are children and young people up to the age of 18 and adults who may be vulnerable aged over 18. An adult who may be vulnerable is defined as one who by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation, is permanently, or for the time being, unable to take care of him or herself, or to protect him or herself against significant harm, abuse, mistreatment or exploitation.

What is abuse?

This can occur in a number of ways:

- Discriminatory
- Spiritual
- Emotional or Psychological
- Financial or Legal
- Physical, Sexual or Neglect
- Domestic Violence

Who is going to abuse someone?

Abuse can occur within a caring relationship where there is an expectation of trust and the abuser is well known to the person being abused, as well as in situations where the abuser is not well known to the victim or is a stranger. Abuse can also occur in situations where there is an imbalance of power or control and the abuser misuses such power/control either intentionally, unintentionally or for their own benefit or gain.

The Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) checks

These checks are created to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults. This is done in all our churches with the non-negotiable requirement that all those in regular contact with children and adults who may be vulnerable **MUST** be checked.

If a person is deemed unsuitable to work with those at risk, they will be put on a national barred list. If any person wants to work with those at risk, their employer (or church leader) must apply for DBS clearance for them to do so. If that person does not pass the DBS checks, they must not be allowed to work with those from at risk groups.

What do I do if I suspect abuse?

If you have any grounds even to suspect abuse or it is disclosed to you, and especially if you witness it, always take it seriously. Take notes of anything that you notice or any conversations you have disclosing abuse. Sympathetically write down everything that the abused person says as carefully as possible, not being judgmental in any way. Date the notes and sign them. Report the occurrence to your minister or safeguarding officer. If they are not available, the abuse is serious and reporting it cannot wait, you may contact their care provider, if appropriate, or Social Services, or the police.

Remember, a person's life may be at risk.

Who can I contact?

The people you can contact if you suspect abuse and they come under different categories. They are:

Keyworth Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Tony Simpson 01664 801532

Keyworth Methodist Church Safeguarding Representative:

Geoffrey Daft 0115 9149354

Nottinghamshire Social Services

Children's Social Care Tel: 0300 500 80 80

For more detail see the Methodist Nottingham and Derby District Safeguarding Policy on our church website

keyworthmethodistchurch.yolasite.com

National

Non urgent crime report 101

In an emergency 999

Child Help Line 0800 1111

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